to build a small hut. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, apart from giving this compensation, whether there are any rehabilitation measures undertaken by the Government like free education to the children of the riot victims, training for self-employment and interest-free bank loans to the riot victims.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: As I said while answering earlier supplementary we have taken various measures for the rehabilitation of the widows. We have imparted training in spice-making, tailoring and other trades. We have enlisted voluntary organisations like Saheli, National Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs, Sikh Women's Welfare Association. Training-cum-production centre has been established by the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation at Tilak Vihar. We must look at the whole package. If more has to be done and we will do it. As it is we are doing these things. Nationalised banks have sanctioned loans worth Rs. 33.92 crores in respect of 6,745 cases. We are doing our best to see that they are rehabilitated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question.

Demand for the introduction of 'Palace on wheels' in the South

*82. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka have requested the Central Government to introduce 'Palace on Wheels, in the South; and

(b) if so by when it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, to attract the foreign tourists, the introduction of 'Palace on Wheels' is very essential in the South. There is a report in the press that the Government of Karnataka have forwarded a project report to the Centre for their consideration to introduce 'Palace on Wheels'. Incidentally, I met the Chief of Karnataka Tourism Development Corporation and he also said the same thing. But unfortunately the Minister says that he has not received anything from the State Government. Whatever may be the position, I would like to know from the Minister if any proposal comes from any one of the States in South to introduce' 'Place on Wheels' linking all the State capitals—Hyderabad, Madras Bangalore and Cochin, will he consider the same and give full grant for the implementation of this project?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, 'Palace on Wheels' is a very novel and interesting concept of tourism. It is a prestigious project launched jointly by the Indian Railways and the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation. The Ministry of Tourism is not involved in this. These two organisations, the Indian Railways and the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation, got together and prepared the special train comprising vintage saloons which erstwhile Maharajas used to have and got renovated by the Railways and they are operating it. The Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation and the Indian Railways share the income. At present no proposal has been received from any State Government of the South to introduce 'Palace on Wheels' . If they come forward with a proposal on the same terms as the present one which is already in vogue, we in the Tourism Ministry will be happy to welcome all its implications by way of economic viability. If the State Government and the Indian Railways can get together on some sort of arrangement

on the present lines, we will be very happy.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, tourism is a concurrent subject. If any one of the State Governments forwards a proposal, a part of the finance must be met by the Centre. Of course, the implementation part rests with the concerned State Government. I would like to know from Minister whether the Centre would give full grant for the introduction of 'Palace on Wheels' in the South?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are putting a hypothetical question. There is no application at all.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, I would like to know on principle.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Mr. Sharma

DR. H. P. SHARMA: Sir, the prestigious train 'palace on wheels' we all know, enjoys overwhelming patronage from foreigners. But one of the major deterrants in the popularity of this train is lack of air-conditioning and specilly when we know that the train cruises through Rajasthan. The Government has assured may a time that the train would be air-conditioned. Will the Government inform this House by what time the train would be airconditioned?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, except one coach which has a lounge of some sort and which is air-conditioned, the rest of the train is not air-conditioned. This train is not being run in summer but during other seasons when you don't need air-conditioning at all. Sir, there is no proposal with the Railways to air-condition the whole train. I do not think there is any necessity for it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gurupadaswamy.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, I am between two Swamys.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not good for you.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: You have our blessings.

Sir, I want to know whether the 'Palace on Wheels' which was introduced between Delhi and Jaipur has yielded any profits. I am told that it is incurring losses. If so, what are the reasons for the losses? Secondly, I would like know whether the Government of India or for that matter, any other department has taken the census of all the royal coaches, used by the previous maharajas and if taht is so, how they are being used.

Thirdly, I would like to know whether the Tourism Corporation in Karnataka has sent a proposal to its counterpart in Delhi for starting such a train between Bangalore and Mysore.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, it is true that the results of this operation by way of earnings are not as satisfactory as we thought it would be because the occupancy has not yet risen beyond 50 per cent. We hope to cross 50 per cent this year and that was due to a lot of problems regarding inadequate publicity. To start with, we have not got agents enough all over the world to book them but now the things are well-set and we hope once the occupancy starts rising, losses would be reduced and I think, we would be able to break even and even make a profit. Sir, by way of exchange earning, from 1982-83 to 25th January, 1987, the Palace on Wheels has earned Rs. 352.36 lakhs by way of foreign exchange. Regarding operation expenses, I have already said about the Rajasthan Tourism Development Crop. and the Indian Railways. As regards the Karnataka Tourism Development Corporation making a request, I checked it up with the Railways as well as our Department i.e. Department of Tourism,

no such request has come and if it comes, we would be very very happy to examine it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What about the royal coaches?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, this Palace on Wheels has been constituted by the socalled royal coaches, saloons dating back to the last century—the Railways had them all over the country—some from Hyderabad, some from Rajasthan. They collected them, renovated them and that is how the State has come into existence and if there is a demand and economically viable project can be framed, the Railways would also like to do so.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir I fully agree with the hon. Minister that Rajasthan provides a real glory to the tourist but, Sir, beautiful, incomparable architectural and sculptural works are there in the South which provide enormous feast to the eyes of tourists both domestic and foreign.

Sir, since the young Maharaja who is handling the Railway Ministry is from the North, this privilege is reserved only for the North. In order to promote tourism in India, will the Central Government, *suo motu*, take steps to provide this privilege and facility in the South also?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, the Government of India is taking a lot of steps to develop tourism. But so far as Palace on Wheels is concerned, it was started in 1981 much before the present Railway Minister took over and there is no question of any discrimination. The North and the South have great tourist attractions and many schemes have been operated as well as implemented to promote tourism in Southern region.

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Sir, my supplementary was on air conditioning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, it has been asked.

Introduction of visa restrictions for Indian immigrants

*83. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:†
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the matter regarding introduction, of visa restrictions by British Government on the immigrants from five non-white nations; and

(b) if so, what is British Government's reaction thereto and whether they are willing to abolish the visa restrictions or make any relaxation for Indians in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No favourable response has been received so far, but the matter remains under consideration of the two Governments.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as stated by the hon. Minister, the Government of India have taken up the matter with the British Government. May I draw the attention of hon. Minister to a statement made by the British M.P. Mr. Jeremy Corbyn from Islington who is reported to have said that there is evidence of discrimination against

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Krishna Kaul.